

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

1986 H E A D L I N E S

Challenger Space Shuttle Explodes

Meltdown at Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor

First Live Aid Benefit Concert

Clint Eastwood Elected Mayor of Carmel

Carolina DX Association Dues Increased From \$10 to \$15

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Yes, 1986 was a long time ago—22 years to be exact. CDXA raised its dues from \$10 per annum to \$15 per annum back in 1986. Along the way, we added PacketCluster to our services and users of the Cluster agreed to pay an additional \$15 per year to help defray the expense of maintaining the cluster—the only expenses being for hardware since the “labor” is sweat equity by a dedicated team. In recent years, CDXA has supported DXpeditions as the expense to operate from the “rare ones” continued to grow. We’ve been fortunate to have enjoyed seeing the CDXA logo displayed on the QSL cards of many recent DXpeditions, but the ante to earn that privilege continues to grow as DXpedition expenses rise. Of course, operational expenses of CDXA have risen a little with activities like CWAC, Field Day, NC QSO

Party and a first-class website. Yet, fiscal prudence has been the byword of your officers. Regrettably, **the headline for 2008** is:

Carolina DX Association Dues Increased from \$15 to \$20

What are \$15 in 1986 worth today? Answer: \$29.98 according to the U.S. Government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) Calculator.

See: http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L (“C NA4L”)	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy’s Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

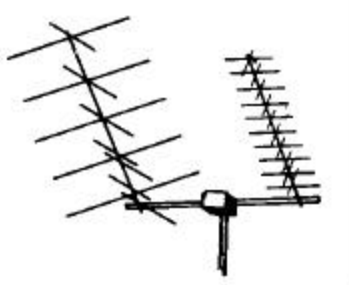
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In the past two years our expenses have outstripped our dues income by about \$600 each year. You can do the numbers. Our total income is about \$4,000 per year and our expenses are about \$4,600 per year. This, despite decreasing our publication costs for this newsletter from about \$800 per year in 2000 to about \$60 per year to-day.

We've enjoyed great success as a club, and have turned some fine numbers because of our participation in various contests.

Your officers hate messing with success, but neither can we be fiscally irresponsible in the long run if we wish to remain a viable club. For 2009, dues for members will be \$20 if you are a non-Cluster user and \$35 if you are a Cluster user. We trust this full disclosure of CDXA's financial realities will satisfy you in these rather complex financial/political times.

Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL) will soon be accepting 2009 dues payments. We expect to be able to offer dues payment using PayPal in the coming weeks. Keep your eye on the CDXA website for this convenient capability.



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Results of SSSP

If you go back and look at the August, 2008 issue of the *Pileup*, you'll find an article about Han Higasa's (JE1BMJ) research into what he called Short-path Summer Solstice Propagation (SSSP) on 6 meters. It seems as if a few members of CDXA benefited from Han's work. Paul Trotter presented your editor a page from a VHF news publication citing Han's Transpacific E_s work in the summer of 2008. Prominent on the list were Jack Jackson (N4JJ), Gary Dixon (K4MQG) and Bill McDowell (K4CIA) all of whom had QSO path lengths in excess of 11,100 kilometers with Han. The big winner was HI3TEJ in the Dominican Republic with a path length of 13,101 km.

Even your editor got his kicks from reading the article. While Han worked CT1HZE from Japan, I was able to work CT1HZE in one of the openings for a new country on 6 meters. It is always quite satisfying to learn of the successes of amateur radio in pushing the frontiers of exploration into radio propagation.

AA4V To Operate CQWW-SSB from Israel

When CQWW SSB comes along at the end of October, look for Steve Reichlyn (AA4V) in Israel. Steve writes:

I'll be operating in the CQWW Phone again this year from 4X as 4X0V. It will be another Multi/2 operation with my friend, Gay, N4SF, joining me again with a couple of local 4X's. I'll sign 4X/AA4V before the contest. We have a new K9AY receiving antenna for 160m and 80m and will be erecting inverted els for 160m and 80m to replace the marginal low dipole for 160m and horizontal loop for 80m. We'll also have a 2 element yagi for 40m and tribanders for 20m through 10m on multiple towers from the Mikve School Club Station in Holon (south of Tel Aviv). Of course, I'll be contributing my part of the score to CWAC and the club competition. Over the past 3 years, I've finished as #2 in Asia in SOAB and #2 in Asia in M/2. We are aiming for the top spot this year IF we have some decent conditions. They will have to be a lot better than they are now, though.

73,
Steve AA4V

Since Steve's operation will count for CDXA, be sure to turn an ear to the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea at the end of October!



Announcing CDXA's "DX King" Competition

Dick Williams, W3OA



Starting January 1, 2009, CDXA will have an annual competition among members to see who can score the highest in CQ Magazine's DX Marathon. Ric Porter, AA4SC, suggested this and your CDXA officers decided to implement his suggestion at the September 24 Officers' meeting. We are calling it the "DX King" competition.

As a special incentive to start participation in the first year of our DX King competition, we will raffle off a 26-inch LCD television among participants who score 150 or more points in 2009.

The goal of **DX Marathon** is to "work as many countries and zones as possible at least once during the calendar year." This can be inside or outside other contests. Here are some of the main features of the DX Marathon rules:

Your score is number of CQ countries worked plus number of zones worked during the year, e.g. 345 countries (see <http://dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/cqwwlist.doc>); 40 zones.

There are two entry categories (the full rules are much more specific in defining these categories):

Unlimited – anything legal.

Formula - 10 watts and single tower or 100 watts with verticals and/or wires.

QSLs are not needed.

The use of Packet Cluster spots is permitted but no other assistance is allowed (i.e. no put outs on the repeater).

CQ provides an Excel spreadsheet for score submission at <http://dxmarathon.com/>

Submit your scores to CQ by January 31, 2010; the results will be in the June CQ Magazine.

Full rules are at <http://dxmarathon.com/Contestrules/2008marathon.jpg>. You should study these before you start making contacts as there are many important points not mentioned here.

Here are the rules specific to our **DX King Competition**:

There are two traveling first place plaques, one for the Unlimited category and one for the Formula category. A member cannot win the same plaque two years in a row.

Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in the Unlimited and Formula categories.

For 2009, a 26" LCD television will awarded by a raffle among entrants scoring 150 or more points.

Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ.

Any tie score will be resolved in favor of the member who first submitted that score to the Contest Manager.

Members must score 150 points or greater to win a plaque.

After reaching a score of 100, members must report their current score monthly to the Contest Manager.

Scores will be published throughout the year in the Pileup and/or the CDXA website.

I imagine some will feel a lot of effort will be needed to keep track of how many countries and zones you have worked throughout the year. Here are some ways to do this automatically.

Users of DX4WIN can use a conversion program available at <http://dx4win.ad1c.us/marathon.htm> to analyze their log and produce a spreadsheet showing their progress.

I use a freeware logging program, DX Keeper, available at <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/download.htm>. It's part of a much larger suite of programs but you only need DX Keeper to do your DX Marathon scoring.

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DX keeper has two buttons for DX Marathon, one to track your progress and one to generate your submission.

If you prefer a different logging program you can use your program to export an ADIF file and then import the ADIF file into DX Keeper to calculate your score. I'll be happy to assist you in this process.

There may be other ways to automate scoring. Please let me know if you find one and we will publicize it to the members.

So there you have it. This should be an enjoyable DX competition for a large number of our members. Score keeping is relatively simple and can be almost automatic. And it's another reason to get a large number of QSO's in next year's ARRL DX and CQWW contests in addition to working a lot of DX throughout 2009.

Fill in the Blanks

Paul Ponak slipped a magazine to me at our luncheon recently. It seemed to be a replay of what we see every couple of months in the "letters to the editor" of QST and CQ Magazine. Here's the text. . . .

. . . A major change I have seen in _____ since the early 1960s is less involvement by those interested in building their own _____. Back then there were few commercial _____ manufacturers. Money was hard to come by, and few could afford a commercially built _____.

Many young people were interested in _____. I feel that kids then were more inquisitive and times were simpler than now. Plus, they didn't have PCs, video games, and the problems of today to distract or discourage them. This contributed to the desire to _____ your own _____.

An employee of Rockwell Collins Corporation

Your job, should you accept it, is to guess what the writer was talking about and to guess in what magazine it appeared. (Answer on Page 10.)

Welcome New Member

This month CDXA welcomes to its ranks **Janet Morris (N4XXV)**. Janet's OM is long-time member James Morris (KQ4O, ex KD4OM). They make their home in Granite Falls, NC. Janet, we're happy to have you in our ranks.

AR-Cluster Changes along the Blue Ridge

Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) has been working with Dave Newman (NA4L) to bring some improvements to AR-Cluster users on the Blue Ridge in the Galax/Fancy Gap areas of Virginia. The elevation of that area has made lightning damage to the digipeater a recurring problem. Paul and Dave have recently installed a node at Dave's QTH and interconnected Dave's node to Paul's node using a TCP/IP connection via the Internet. This connection should provide better response time by eliminating a digipeater, and hopefully reduce outages due to a damaged digipeater. The new node will also be at Dave's QTH which will make access far easier. The new setup will remain on 144.95 MHz, but now the connection sequence is to merely connect to NA4L ("C NA4L"). The new login sequence has been incorporated into the table on Page 1 of every issue of *The Pileup*.

Comtek Now Part of DX Engineering

It might be that we'll be seeing more of Jim Miller, K4SQR, at our Wednesday luncheons in the future. On September 8, 2008, Jim sold his company, COMTEK SYSTEMS, INC to DX Engineering of Akron, Ohio. Keeping product flowing from Comtek as word spread about Jim's fine Four-Square switchboxes took a lot of Jim's time. Now Jim may be able to "wind down" a bit and enjoy that Tenedyne log periodic antenna he put up last year.

In the weeks immediately after the sale, Jim was busy moving the operation up to Akron. Then a little orthopedic surgery came along with some recuperation time. We'll be looking for Jim real soon at Murphy's.

Roving Reporter Travels to Hillsborough

After roving westward to Waynesville in August, the Roving Reporter decided to venture eastward this month to Hillsborough to visit **Stan Dicks, W4AG**. The old wheels of the Roving Reporter are sure getting familiar with I-40 in recent months.

Roving Reporter: Good morning, Stan. What better way to begin our session than to find out how you got started in Amateur Radio?

Stan, W4AG: In the late 1950s, I was active in the Boy Scouts of America. A requirement for the 1st Class Scout rank was that you had to learn Morse Code. I decided that as long as I was learning Morse Code, I would also try to earn my Radio Merit Badge. I bought an issue of QST Magazine, and after reading it from cover to cover, I decided that I wanted to be a ham. I built a basic receiver and began listening to foreign broadcast stations, but what really caught my attention was people talking to people rather than the broadcasters. Someone introduced me to Frank Dowd, K4BVQ. On my first visit to Frank's home, I saw an ART-13 military radio and I was really hooked. Frank agreed to proctor my Novice exam, and I studied for the big day. On exam day I showed up at Frank's home, and Frank decided to start with the CW code test. Like a lot of folks, I had learned the code "visually", but I really didn't have a good grasp of the rhythm needed for CW work. Frank asked me to send a message he wrote, and I guess it must have sounded like just so many dits and dahs randomly strung together—it wasn't intelligible to Frank and he suggested I had some work to do. I realized that I had to relearn the code as an orderly series of sounds. After several months of listening to army code records, I learned the rhythm and then passed my Novice exam. That was in 1961, and I was 14 years of age.

RR: Well, I know you didn't stop with your Novice ticket.

W4AG: You're right. I earned my General ticket within a year or so. My early fascination with people talking to people and foreign broadcasters created a thirst for DXing. I couldn't get enough. DXing of any kind was fine by me. I even put up a two element 6 meter Cubical Quad and managed to tear up the neighborhood TVs pretty good!

RR: After your early bout with CW, do you enjoy it today?

W4AG: Most definitely! It is my favorite mode, and I use it for about 80% of my QSOs.

RR: With over 40 years on the ham bands, what was your favorite rig?

W4AG: You know, equipment just keeps getting better and better. I'd say the Ten-Tec Orion I now own is my favorite piece of gear. Yet, I'm sure some day as technology advances I may have a new favorite.

RR: Do you take part in contests?

W4AG: I wouldn't put myself in the category of an avid tester. I enjoy jumping in on contest weekends to work new DXCC Band Countries, but I don't regularly spend 36+ hours in the chair on big contest weekends. One of the competitions I have enjoyed is run by Low Band DX Monitor. They have a contest to see over the period from September 1st to March 31st who can work 100 entities on 80 meters and 150 entities on 40 meters in the shortest period of time. On 160 meters the award is for getting WAC first, so the really avid folks line up all their buddies to be ready, and some have claimed the prize on the first evening! I've earned some honorable mentions a few times in that contest. I did earn a 2nd place several times in working 100+ countries on 80 meters.

RR: You said you collect band countries. Are you an award chaser, then?

W4AG: I hold a DXCC certificate. I guess you've noticed that I have an affinity to the Low Bands. I have all but four DXCC entities on 80 meters, and I need only 10 or 12 DXCC entities on 40 meters to have them all. I'm currently putting up an inverted-L at my place here that will give me the ability to have directivity in four directions on 160 meters. That should help in some of my award chasing.

RR: With all your years on the air, what are some of your more memorable moments?

W4AG: The *most* memorable has to be when I was a sophomore college student at home in Texas at Christmas time. I was talking to my friend Stew, K4SMX, who was in Charlotte. Stew and I were ragchewing on 20 meters when he decided to call a friend who was a student at the University of North Carolina. In the middle of his conversation with her, he got called away, so he put her on his phone patch to talk to me for a few minutes. When I got back to Chapel Hill, I asked her out, and we ended up getting married, after having met on a phone patch!

A second memorable event involves a series of phone

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patches I set up on Christmas Eve in the 1970's while living in Ohio. At that time I had an inexpensive Gotham Beam mounted on a 29 foot tall tower. Gotham beams were made of thin-walled aluminum tubing, and I recall spending a lot of my time rebuilding it because of the wind and ice present in Ohio winters. Yet, on this one evening, my Gotham beam served me well. I had a contact with Antarctica. In those days, they didn't have satellite phones, so amateur radio was one of the few ways to stay connected to the outside world, and I was asked if I could connect to people all over the U.S. I made patch calls all over the United States that evening until well after 2:00 AM. It was amazing how many people would accept a collect call in the middle of the night. It was really a heart warming experience. Yet, on one of the calls, the called party used the occasion to tell her sweetheart that their relationship was over. Of course, as the controller of the call when I heard what was about to happen, I was screaming in my head, "You can't do that on Christmas Eve."

RR: Surely you "pulled the plug" on that call?

W4AG: I wish I could say I did, but it happened all too fast. Yet, by making so many others happy that night, the single unpleasant event made me still feel good. I did feel bad for the fellow who got his "Dear John" letter that way, however. While recalling memorable events, I have to tell you one of the funnier events. One evening I heard a guy signing his call as ZZ1Z on 20 meters. I thought, "that's a funny prefix." But, when asked his name by one of the callers, he answered "Zog". When pressed further for his QTH, he answered "Mars". Still undaunted, and apparently not listening, the caller asked how he could get a QSL card and Zog answered, "Send it through the buro." That was about the time I fell out of my chair.

RR: I assume you got rid of your Gotham beam long ago. What do you have in your antenna farm now?

W4AG: I've already mentioned my 160m inverted el is a work in progress. Antennas I have working are a four-square on 40 meters using home brewed vertical radiators and a four-square on 80 meters using MFJ-1792's as radiators. The switches are Jim Miller's COMTEK boxes. For 20 meters through 10 meters, I have a two element cubical quad mounted at 50 feet. The quad also has two 6m elements to give me access to the "magic band".

RR: Can you say that amateur radio has affected your life in any significant way?

W4AG: My academic work was in English where I earned my Master's and Ph.D. degrees. Back in the 1970's Wayne Green, Editor of 73 Magazine, used to pay authors for articles. Because of my knowledge of ham radio I used to submit articles to 73 Magazine for publication to supplement my income as an English professor. After doing that for a while, I soon grasped that I could make 50% per annum more as a technical writer than I could as a college professor. So in my "middle career" I managed a technical writing business in New Jersey. Several years ago, I got a yearning to be back in academia, and I ended up "home" in North Carolina as a professor at NC State University. I teach classes in Technical Writing, primarily to graduate students, but I do have a course for seniors, too.

RR: We know you have roots in North Carolina, but as I recall, you became a member of CDXA in about 1997—I presume after you moved back here and resumed your academic career. How did you hitch up with us?

W4AG: As you must know, DXers tend to know their fellow DXers. I knew Gary Dixon, K4MQG, from a long way back. Gary didn't let me forget CDXA, and I checked out the website and decided I wanted to be a member. The website was in its infancy in those days, but when I saw the name and callsign of my Elmer, Frank Dowd, and knowing that Gary Dixon was a member, I knew I'd find CDXA to my liking.

RR: We're glad you did, Stan. Thank you for taking the time to share your experiences with all of us.



W4AG in the shack.

CQWW, Phone, Starts Friday October 24 Please Contribute to CDXA's Club Score

Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year CDXA scored 34.8 million points in the CQWW Club Competition. That put us in eighth place among US clubs. That's a big improvement over previous years but another 100,000 points would have put us in seventh place. All we needed was two more CDXA members making 300 QSOs each. That's a total of 300 QSOs in the phone and CW contests (300 in either one or 150 in both). So every member can make a difference – CDXA needs your help! Your first opportunity is the weekend starting Friday, October 24, the CQWW Phone Contest!

Last month's Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0809.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest, CWAC, and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, certificates, and CDXA patches.

There are other articles in past Pileups to help you get ready. Page 7 of the September 2006, issue, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0609.pdf>, has N4ZC's article, "CQWW Contest Information," discussing CQWW operating at the bottom of the solar cycle. And in October 2003, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0310.pdf>, W3GQ explained the intricacies of CQWW score keeping and the importance of working the "easy" North American zone multipliers (zones 3, 4, and 5) on each band. You can work either U.S. or Canadian stations to get these zones but it's better to work Canadians because you will also get QSO points for those contacts. US stations don't count for QSO points. But, your first contact with any US station on a band does count for a country multiplier.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQWWDXContestRules8407.pdf>. The rules include instructions on how to submit your scores to CQ. Remember to use "Carolina DX Assn" as your club affiliation.

Be sure to send me a summary of your score (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Please include call sign used, entry category, number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total points. We will post them on the CDXA web site as we receive them.

During the contest be sure to work 4X0V everywhere you hear that station. Steve, AA4V, has again organized this multi-operator, two transmitter, team. When you work 4X0V CDXA gets credit for both ends of the contact.

Please let me know if I can be of any help.

Dick Williams w3oa@roadrunner.com (704) 658-0915

Robert Denton (KF4NO, SK)

On September 29, CDXA learned of the passing of **Robert Denton (KF4NO)**. Your editor first met Robert at one of our Hamfest Dinners in the late 1990's. We were tablemates and had a chance to get acquainted. Alzheimer's Disease had taken its toll on Robert in recent years, but periodic visits to Robert by various CDXA members usually resulted in a glimmer of recognition.

A funeral service was held for Robert on Wednesday, October 1.

Shelby Hamfest Card Checking

There were some interesting statistics for ARRL field checking of QSLs at the new Shelby Hamfest this year. Possibly the new location caused a reduction in the number of DXCC applications and cards being received. Certainly the weather was not a factor since it was hot and dry.

There were 9 DXCC applications with a total of 485 cards checked. This included a couple of applications with 160 Meter cards and deleted countries. Checking of these cards, which are not normally allowed to be field checked, was made possible since Dan Henderson, N1ND, from ARRL Hdqs. was present. In 2007 there were 18 DXCC applications with a total of 953 cards

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and no 160 or deleted cards were included. Thus, we experienced about a 50% reduction in general.

There were 3 VUCC applications checked with a total of 102 grids, one WAS and three WAC applications. Field checking applications for WAC is very rare and to have three this time was unusual.

73, Gary, K4MQG

ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit

(The information below was provided in The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 36 dated September 12, 2008.)

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>>. This new benefit—a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>>—provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members, and is for their personal use only—material in the archive may not be freely distributed or copied.

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFL. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource—for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks'—and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months).

Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/join>>.

W4WJF Heading To Willis Island

Just in case you missed the earlier announcement via the CDXA email list, CDXA Member Josh Fisher (W4WJF) has been selected by the Bavarian Contest Club as one of the young operators to join the seasoned German team heading to Willis Island in the Coral Sea north of Australia. There they'll be operating as VK9DWX. Willis Island is in the top 20 "most wanted" in the world for CW and SSB and only slips to #22 for digital modes. Its rank in the Eastern Time Zone of North America is no lower than #13 for all modes.

Josh and Rhynhardt Louw of South Africa were selected from 22 applicants, aged 19 to 29, who met the requirements for contesting skills, DXing skills, and interest in Amateur Radio. Josh will join up with the team in Cairns, Australia for the first week of operation beginning September 9. Rhynhardt will join the team for the last half of the DXpedition scheduled to terminate on September 27. All of Josh's expenses from Cairns to Willis and while on the DXpedition will be borne by the Bavarian Contest Club. In response to Josh's selection to the team, a number of CDXA members have already sent Cliff Wagoner donations to assist Josh in paying for the nearly \$2,000 tab for airfare. This will certainly be the "event of a lifetime" in Josh's young life. If you still need Willis Island, like your editor, I'm certain the Bavarian Contest team will also gladly accept any donations you'd like to send along to defray the expenses of this rather costly DXpedition. To learn more about the DXpedition visit the website at: <http://willis2008.d11mgb.com/>

Josh was in attendance at the SEDCO IV Conference on the weekend of September 27 and had the opportunity to talk with DXpeditioners Bob Allphin (K4UEE), Joe Blackwell (AA4NN), Bill Beyer (N2WB), Jay

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Slough (K4ZLE), Dave Anderson (K4SV), Joe Pater (W8GEX) and others about what it's like to be on the "other side".

Josh leaves on October 4 and will be "in transit" for 2+ days to reach Cairns. Bon Voyage, Josh, and listen for us!

N4UH To Be Back On the Air

Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, provided us with a good item of news while your editor was at the SEDCO IV conference in Pigeon Forge on September 27. I asked him to send me the details so I didn't forget to include them in this month's *Pileup*. Here's Wayne's message:

John,

As I mentioned to you at SEDCO, Uncle Henry Elwell's N4UH call has been requested and assigned to the Rowan Amateur Radio Society in Salisbury. The club, active since 1937 as W4EXU, thought this would be a fitting tribute to long-time member Henry and with the cooperation of his children the application for an "in memoriam" call was made and approved.

The W4EXU call is still retained as well and it is likely that the N4UH call will be used mostly for contests. We'll have to make sure our CW is perfect when we use it.

73, Wayne, W4HG



"Uncle Henry's" callsign will be heard again.

SEDCO IV is History

By John Scott, K8YC

On the weekend of September 27, DXers from across the Southeast gathered in Pigeon Forge, TN to attend the 4th Annual Southeast DX and Contest Organization (SEDCO) conference. CDXAers in attendance were: AA4NN, AF1E, K4MQG, K8YC, K4DXA, K4PZT, K4YP, K4ML, K4SV, N4PQX, N4AA, W4GMY, W4VHF, W4NL, W4GRW, W4WJF, and W4HG. There was a little something for everyone as the following recap will show.

INDEXA and NCDXF provided some support for Reider "Radar" Larsen (USMC) operating as YI9PT from Iraq early this year. Radar related his story of how his ham buddies stateside garnered support to get his personal radio equipment delivered to Iraq following his deployment there, enlist the help of INDEXA and NCDXF in funding a SteppIR beam and an amplifier, and fulfill other supportive activities. Some of you probably worked Radar, because he had one of the bigger signals coming out of Iraq. From Radar's view as a somewhat new ham, the support shown by the amateur radio community was a life event for him. He presented his primary "helpers" with a United States Flag and a Unit Medal in thanks for helping him get on the air. Radar is back stateside now, having completed his mission.

Bill "Wild Bill" Beyer (N2WB) provided the assemblage with a video report of the recently completed DXpedition to Guinea-Bissau (J5C). Besides the "radio stuff", Bill provided insight into the people and places surrounding the operating location. (You can read a recap of the DXpedition by looking at the Summer 2008 edition of the INDEXA Newsletter on the INDEXA website at <http://www.indexa.org>.)

On the lighter side, Mark Speck (K0EJ) gave us insight on "traveling light" and operating from Nevis (V49) using low power during several recent ARRL International DX-CW contests. Despite careful preparation, Mark warned that "hidden conditions" (such as metal flashing under a perceived wooden porch ceiling) can befool the best of plans. When operating QRP in big contests, one must come up with hybrid measures of performance—thus, QSO's per pound of gear.

Most of you know the crew who went on the recent Clipperton DXpedition (T5XC) got hammered with some severe weather. Jay Slough (K4ZLE) let us all

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know just how bad. In the early going, the heat was so intense that the physician-in-residence ordered reduced work activity and increased hydration during setup, delaying the startup. Then came the storms with winds exceeding 60 miles per hour that tore tents apart and waterlogged equipment. When a huge tropical depression showed its ugly head, the captain of the vessel which transported them from San Diego to Clipperton ordered evacuation rather than risk life and limb. Over \$10,000 of equipment remains on the beach at Clipperton for anyone wishing to claim it. Remember these facts when working your next DXpedition sitting comfortably at home in your shack.

Becky (AF4QB) and Jeff Clark (NY4N) always seem to show up in the NC QSO Party to tussle with our Ron Bailey (AA4S) in the mobile category. Becky and Jeff do that same thing in lots of other states. Jeff showed us his van equipped with all his gear, and told us of a few episodes of being stopped by police on suspicion of being up to some “no-good” deeds. One of Jeff’s pictures showed him reading a map on one of his ventures, and he stated that he didn’t own a GPS. Ted and Itice Goldthorpe donated a GPS to SEDCO for one of the door prizes. During the drawing at the dinner, Jeff claimed a GPS as his prize! Look out, now, Ron. . . .

Dee Logan (W1HEO) presented a number of hints from his monograph, “Tips from the Top DXers”. After telling us how to do it right, he enumerated a number of things that DX Dunces manage to do. Of course, there were no Dunces at SEDCO!!

Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) retraced some of the early difficulties the Cocos Island (TI9KK) team experience in getting licensed and needing to wait 5 days before leaving mainland Costa Rica. Mountainous terrain made getting generators in proximity of the operating position a Herculean struggle. The trip home wasn’t too pleasant because the air conditioning on the boat went out, and food and fuel were in short supply. Advice from Joe: Don’t make the final payment to those you rely on for services before they’re rendered—you lose a whole lot of bargaining power when you do!

Yaesu VP, Dennis Motschenbacher (K7BV) told us how over diligent customs officials manhandling sensitive electronics gear sometimes allow teeny parts to get where they don’t belong and render your gear useless. Yet, Dennis plans to return to San Andres (5J) next year to put it on the air on 6m with power. Unfortunately once there with an inoperative linear amplifier, and low

QSO count, he computed his cost per QSO at something like \$50—ugh.

After a break for dinner, Dave Anderson (K4SV) gave us a tutorial on the requirements of working EME using WSJT/JT65. These modern, freeware tools make EME possible without the huge arrays and maximum power from earlier days. Yet, Dave reminded us that the path loss and signal losses due to distance and the inverse square law of both outbound and reflected signals from the moon result in a 250+ db loss that still must be overcome by antennas, power, and “smart” software. Surprisingly, even after the fog of a wonderful dinner, Dave’s presentation was very understandable.

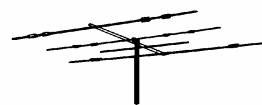
Bob Allphin (K4UEE) made a nice transition to end the evening by showing his video production of “Untold Stories—DXpeditions of the Year”. It was just the ticket to end a delightful day full of DX lore.

Throughout the day, repeated references were made by many DXpeditioners to how much they rely on seed money from organizations like INDEXA and NCDXF to even begin planning a major DXpedition. This was good news to hear by INDEXA President, Gary Dixon (K4MQG) and NCDXF President, Len Giraldi (K6ANP). It was the first known time that the Presidents of INDEXA and Northern California DX Foundation appeared together at a conference like SEDCO. Proceeds after expenses of the SEDCO conference were presented to the Presidents of INDEXA and NCDXF.

Oh, yes, a first time visitor, George (N5GH) up from Mississippi with three friends won the Yaesu FT-2000 in one grand prize raffle. Carl Smith (N4AA) walked home with a new IC-756ProIII in the second grand prize raffle—making it the second year in a row that a CDXAer took home one of the big prizes. Thanks go to ICOM, Yaesu, and all the other vendors and individuals who donated raffle and door prizes.

Answer to “Fill in the Blanks”

The author was talking about building a telescope by grinding one’s own mirrors in *Sky and Telescope*, The Essential Magazine of Astronomy.



Barbeque 2008

Folks came from “far and wide” for the BBQ again this year. North—Scott Douglass and XYL from near Boone. West—Ron Tingle and XYL from Waynesville. South—Gary and Lynette Martek from Columbia, SC. California (via Lexington, NC)—Ed Swiderski. North-east—Wayne Ashworth and XYL from Salisbury.

New faces came, too! Eric Sossoman (K4CEB) bearing a familiar callsign and Cameron Hasson (along with Eric and Beverly Hasson (See the July, 2008 *Pileup* for the whole story).

The “presses were held” to give you a first look at the proceedings. We’d love to see YOU in the pictures next year.



Neither driving distance nor hip replacement surgery kept Scott Douglass or Jim Miller, respectively, from greeting old friends.



Ron Tingle, K4ML, and XYL drove the 2-1/2 hours from Waynesville to try AA4SC's BBQ.



Ted Goldthorpe makes a few announcements before we traditionally join hands for our blessing of the meal.



Eric Sossoman brings K4CEB back to the roster.



Cameron Hasson, KJ4EDF, is introduced to fellow CDXAers. He's just turned 7, and Dad (Eric) tells us Cameron is studying for his General Ticket in between all the other studies a typical 7 year old must do. We remind Cameron it's a “lifetime hobby”.

The Back Page

For the first time in 22 years, CDXA finds it is time for a **modest increase in dues**. (See Page 1.)

Short-path Summer Solstice Propagation (SSSP) allows three CDXAers to work Japan on 6 meters. (See Page 2.)

AA4V heads off to Israel for CQWW-SSB. See Page 2.

“DX KING” competition presents new fun opportunity for CDXA members in 2009. (See Page 3.)

A **Cluster reconfiguration** on the Blue Ridge should improve reliability for those on the Southern Tier of VA. See Page 4.

Roving Reporter visits Stan Dicks, W4AG. (See Page 5)

CWAC Update on Page 7.

New member benefits at ARRL help search ARRL periodicals. See Page 8.

Josh Fisher (W4WJF) heads off to Willis Island along with the Bavarian Contest Club. See Page 8.

N4UH call to be heard again. See Page 9.

SEDCO IV is history—a recap. See page 9.

CDXA Barbeque lives up to its reputation for good eats and good fellowship. See Page 11.

Late News—ARRL has a free download of a publication by John Devoldere (ON4UN) and Mark Demeuleneere (ON4WW) entitled, “ETHICS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR”. It is a 67 page document of “how-tos” for on-air activities useful for new and long-time hams alike. If nothing else, give a copy to your favorite “frequency cop”. Better yet, give it to your new ham friend so he/she learns the “ropes” like a pro.

Even Later News—The Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex has selected and announced a team of operators to activate Desecheo Island (KP5) sometime between January 15, 2009 and March 30, 2009. The Team will be co-led by Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ and Bob Allphin, K4UEE.

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